Improving quality of roads

514. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any research on improvisation of quality of roads built in the country;

(b) the present specification prescribed to achieve the quality;

(c) whether any specific quality contract is exercised in States where monsoons are heavy; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Various Research Institutions and Academic Institutions of the Government have done research on improvement of quality of roads built in the country;

(b) Ministry's Specifications for Road and Bridge Works, 2001 (4th Revision) and relevant Indian Roads Congress's publications are the main specifications prescribed to achieve the quality at present.

(c) There is no specific quality contract for heavy monsoon areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Maritime University at Visakhapatnam

515. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested Central Government particularly the Ministry of Shipping to establish Maritime Universities, one in the East Coast i.e. at Visakhapatnam another at West Coast of India;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?